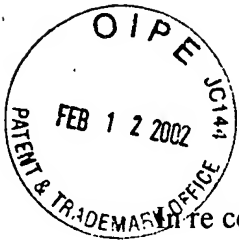


7037-438

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



is a continuation patent application of:

David R. Hathaway

Serial No. 10/008,781

Filed November 13, 2001

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN INTERNAL  
TISSUE MEMBRANE OPENING

Before the Examiner Woo

Group Art Unit 3731

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Service as  
first class mail in an envelope addressed to the  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington,  
DC 20231 on January 28, 2002

Thomas Q. Henry  
Name of Registered Representative

Signature

January 28, 2002  
Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO**

**NOTICE TO FILE CORRECTED APPLICATION PAPERS**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the notice dated January 3, 2002, enclosed is a substitute  
specification for the above-identified patent application. The Commissioner is hereby  
authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this application or  
credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Thomas Q. Henry  
Thomas Q. Henry

Reg. No. 28,309

Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton

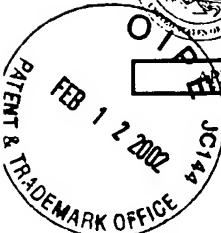
Moriarty & McNett

Bank one Center/Tower

111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700

Indianapolis, IN 46204-5137

(317) 634-3456



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**CONFIRMATION NO. 5711**

\*OC000000007262496\*

**COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED**

Date Mailed: 01/03/2002

## NOTICE TO FILE CORRECTED APPLICATION PAPERS

**Filing Date Granted**

This application has been accorded an Application Number and Filing Date. The application, however, is informal since it does not comply with the regulations for the reason(s) indicated below. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to correct the informalities indicated below. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a)

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- A substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52 because:
  - Papers contain improper margins. *Each sheet must have a left margin of at least 2.5 cm (1") and top, bottom and right margins of at least 2.0 cm (3/4")*

*A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.*

Customer Service Center  
Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE